

# Florida Hurricane Debby Recovery

Aug. 22, 2024

## Disaster Recovery Center Open in Columbia County

FEMA has opened a Disaster Recovery Center in Columbia County to provide one-on-one help to those affected by Hurricane Debby. (Details below.)



## Madison County Eligible for FEMA Assistance

Homeowners and renters in Madison County who had uninsured damage or losses caused by Hurricane Debby can apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

## FEMA Calls May Come from Unfamiliar Phone Numbers

After Floridians apply for disaster assistance, FEMA may call them to schedule an inspection of the damaged home or to obtain more information to process the application. These calls may come from unfamiliar area codes or phone numbers. It is important to answer the call to avoid delay in processing the application.

## How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

If you sustained damage or losses from Hurricane Debby, FEMA may be able to help. You may be eligible for financial assistance for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.

Homeowners and renters in **Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Sarasota, Suwannee** and **Taylor** counties can apply to FEMA in several ways:

### The Best Way to Apply for Disaster Assistance



#### ONLINE

You can apply online 24/7. No waiting, fastest and easiest way to apply. Download the FEMA app or apply directly at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov).

The quickest way to apply is to go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov). You can also apply using the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices or calling toll-free

**800-621-3362**. The telephone line is open every day and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service such as VRS, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#). The deadline to apply is **Oct. 9, 2024**.



# FEMA

To date, FEMA has approved \$14 million in assistance to households.

## Citizenship and FEMA Eligibility

FEMA is committed to helping all eligible Florida households recover from Hurricane Debby, including U.S. citizens, non-U.S. citizen nationals or qualified non-citizens. You or a member of your household [must be U.S. citizen, non-U.S. citizen national or qualified non-citizen](#) to apply for FEMA assistance. Families with diverse immigration status, including adults who are undocumented, can apply as long as at least one family member is a citizen, non-U.S. citizen national or qualified non-citizen. For instance, if you are undocumented and have a child under 18 who is a U.S. citizen and lived in the household during the time of the disaster, you can apply for FEMA assistance.

## Understanding Your FEMA Letter

If you applied for FEMA assistance after Hurricane Debby you will receive an eligibility letter from FEMA in the mail or by email. The letter will explain your application status and how to respond. You may need to submit additional information or supporting documentation for FEMA to continue to process an application for financial assistance. If you have questions about your letter, or disagree with the initial decision, visit a [Disaster Recovery Center](#) or call the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-3362 to find out what information FEMA needs.

## Disaster Recovery Centers

- **Columbia:** 180 E. Duval St, Lake City, FL 32055 (Hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day)
- **Manatee County:** Lakewood Ranch Library, 16410 Rangeland Pkwy, Bradenton, FL 34211. (Hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day)
- **Sarasota County:** Sarasota Christian Church, 2923 Ashton Rd, Sarasota, FL 34231. (Hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday Saturday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday)
- **Taylor County:** Loughridge Park, 1100 W. Hampton Springs Ave, Perry, FL 32347. (Hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday- Friday)

## Be Alert to Fraud After Hurricane Debby

FEMA personnel working in areas impacted by Hurricane Debby carry official photo identification. FEMA representatives never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. [Their services are free.](#) Don't believe anyone who promises a disaster grant in return for payment. Don't give your banking information to a person claiming to be a FEMA housing inspector. FEMA inspectors are never authorized to collect your personal financial information. If you believe you are the victim of a scam, report it immediately to your local police or sheriff's department or contact Florida's Office of the Attorney General by calling 866-9-NO-SCAM (866-966-7226) or visit [myfloridalegal.com](#). To file a fraud complaint, go online to Scam Report ([myfloridalegal.com](#)).

## What Kind of Help Can FEMA Provide?

FEMA assistance does not replace insurance and cannot restore your home to its pre-disaster condition. But FEMA may be able to provide help for uninsured or underinsured costs. File your insurance claim, then apply to FEMA. [FEMA's disaster assistance offers new benefits that provide flexible funding directly to survivors.](#)

## Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](#). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955**.

The SBA has opened three Business Recovery Centers to meet the needs of businesses that were affected by Hurricane Debby. Locations: Rocky Bluff Library, 6750 US-301, Ellenton, and Yankeetown Town Hall, 6241 Harmony Lane, Yankeetown, and Sarasota Christian Church, 2923 Ashton Rd., Sarasota. SBA has approved more than \$436,200 in disaster loans to date.

## Additional Resources

- [Tips for Mold Cleanup](#)
- **American Red Cross:** Call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or visit [Hurricane Debby \(arcgis.com\)](#).
- **Activate Hope** connects Floridians with resources for food, household goods, home repairs and more. Request help by applying online at [Hurricane Debby Recovery - Hope Florida](#).
- **Crisis Clean Up:** Call **844-965-1386** to register for assistance with debris.
- **Crisis Counseling:** Call the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at **800-985-5990**; for Spanish, press "2").
- **Disaster Legal Aid:** Call **833-514-2940**. Disaster survivors anywhere in the state may call to apply for free civil legal services.
- [Disaster Relief for FHA Homeowners](#)
- [IRS Extends Tax Filing Deadline for Disaster Survivors to Feb. 3, 2025.](#)

## [FEMA News Releases and Fact Sheets](#)